



"You are old," said the youth,  
 "and your jaws are too weak  
 For anything tougher than suet;  
 Yet you finished the goose,  
 with the bones and the beak —  
 Pray, how did you manage to do it?"

"In my youth," said his father,  
 "I took to the law,  
 And argued each case with my wife;  
 And the muscular strength,  
 which it gave to my jaw  
 Has lasted the rest of my life."



"You are old," said the youth,  
 "one would hardly suppose  
 That your eye was as steady as ever;  
 Yet you balanced an eel  
 on the end of your nose —  
 What made you so awfully clever?"

"I have answered three questions,  
 and that is enough,"  
 Said his father. "Don't give yourself airs!  
 Do you think I can listen all day  
 to such stuff?  
 Be off, or I'll kick you down-stairs!"